

# THE GUARDIAN

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## A DAY OR TWO IN AUGUST

THE FOLLOWING ARE NEWS REPORTS OUT OF IRAQ. THESE ARE LESS THAN 48 HOURS OF REPORTS FROM THE MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION PRESS RELEASES.

THESE ANNOUNCE THE DIFFERENT INCIDENTS HAPPENING WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATION AROUND AND IN THE CITY OF BAGHDAD IRAQ.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**Local tip leads to cache discovery**

**Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**MOSUL, Iraq** – Tipped off by an Iraqi citizen, Iraqi army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division conducted a joint mission with Coalition Force Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, July 30, to remove illegal weapons from the neighborhoods of western Mosul.

Focusing on the Wade Hajar and Al Sinaa neighborhoods, IA and Coalition troops captured a detainee with knowledge of a substantial weapons cache at a home located in the Al Najar neighborhood.

Inside the house, the joint forces discovered a spider hole hidden under tiles beneath a stove. The tiles were broken away revealing a lit room containing: one anti-aircraft gun barrel; one anti-aircraft gun receiver; one sniper rifle, 2,000 rounds of PKM machine gun ammunition, two AK-47 assault rifles, three rocket-propelled grenades and miscellaneous improvised explosive device-making materials. Two suspected terrorists were also detained for interrogation.

"This discovery is another great example of the Iraqi army taking the lead and generating the intelligence that allows us to find and remove dangerous weapons like these off of the streets," said Maj. Joseph Kopser, executive officer, 2-7 Cavalry.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**Iraqi Security Forces, U.S. Special Forces battle terrorists near Doura**

**Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO**

**BAGHDAD** – Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. Special Forces as advisors, detained two suspected al-Qaeda terrorists while conducting an intelligence driven operation in the Doura neighborhood of Baghdad, July 29.

The two targeted individuals were detained without incident. Iraqi Security Forces also seized one AK-47, two loaded magazines and more than \$3500 U.S. dollars.

After completing the raid, Iraqi and U.S. Forces received enemy fire from several buildings across the street. After positively identifying four armed insurgents, U.S. Special Forces called in precision aerial fires that resulted in four insurgents killed.

An immediate battle assessment confirmed the four insurgents were killed and no Iraqi civilians present.

No Iraqi or Coalition Forces were injured during this operation.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**MND-B patrol struck by explosively formed penetrator**

**Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO**

**BAGHDAD** —Three Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers were killed and six others wounded when an explosively formed penetrator detonated near their patrol during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital July 31.

Units operating in this area of Baghdad continue to conduct targeted raid operations in order to disrupt insurgent and militia command and control elements operating in this section of the Iraqi capital.

The deceased Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin and release by the Department of Defense.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**IA, Stryker leaders assess progress in Baqouba**

**Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO**

**BAQOUBA, Iraq** – Leaders from the 5th Iraqi Army Division and the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, traveled together to assess progress in several neighborhoods of Baqouba, Iraq, July 31.

As Operation Arrowhead Ripper continues, the effort has shifted from combat operations to reconstruction and humanitarian missions. The majority of the projects are being led by the Iraqi army, Iraqi police and provincial council members. Many residents have joined in to do their part to improve their city.

Lt. Col. Wa'el Hashim, the civil affairs officer for the 5th IA Div., and members of the division visited west Baqouba neighborhoods Khatoon and Mufrek to confirm whether or not damaged infrastructure has been fixed and determine other services that require immediate attention such as water, power, food and reparations to civilians.

During this mission, Wa'el rolled up his sleeves and got his hands dirty as he helped pull out a damaged water main line from the muddy ground, helped residents carry bags of rice and flour at a food distribution point and helped the division engineers get started in clearing streets of debris and trash.

"You've got the IA embracing civil military operations and fixing to help the community," said Lt. Col. Fred Johnson, deputy commanding officer for 3-2 SBCT, from Fort Lewis, Wash. "And you have a very active municipal government working with the Army."

Johnson said he believes these neighborhoods are heading in the right direction.

"What wins the war is normalcy, the work that's being done by the Iraqi army, the municipal government, the civilians – by those people that want to take hold of their future – that's where the war is won," Johnson said. "And it's not by us doing it. It's by the Iraqis doing it."

Johnson said leaders at the government center in downtown Baqouba are taking the recent Iraqi soccer team win of the Asian Cup to heart.

"The last three weeks here in Baqouba have, without question, been the most rewarding three weeks of my career, because I've seen what good Iraq leadership looks like."

Wednesday, 01 August 2007

## **MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**MND-B aircraft help thwart insurgent small arms attack**

**Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO**

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** — Multi-National Division-Baghdad Apache helicopter crews assisted in thwarting an insurgent small arms attack against a Coalition Forces patrol north of Baghdad July 30.

A ground patrol from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, came under small arms fire and returned fire. They called for and received support from an AH-64D Apache team from the 1st "Attack" Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div.

The ground commander requested that the Apache crews engage a structure from which insurgents were firing on the patrol. The air mission commander for the Apache team determined there was no risk to civilians in the area and engaged the structure in the area that the ground commander requested.

After engaging the structure, firing on the ground patrol ceased, and the patrol was able to return to its patrol base without injuries to Coalition Forces personnel or Iraqi civilians.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**Small arms fire targets MND-B Soldier**

**Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO**

**BAGHDAD** — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed by small arms fire during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital July 31.

The Soldier's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin and release by the Department of Defense.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

**Al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists murder citizens**

**Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**TIKRIT, Iraq** – Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces, working with tips from local citizens, discovered the site of a mass grave near the village of al-Muhbabiya, located in Diyala province, July 31.

Iraqi citizens reported to the CF and ISF that on 28 July, terrorists linked to al-Qaida in Iraq murdered 17 Iraqi citizens, including women, children and elderly people. The ISF and CF assisted family members in recovering 14 of the bodies, all believed to be Sunni. Three other bodies were taken to a hospital for relatives to identify and claim.

"This is a disgraceful act of hate and an attempt to intimidate the community," said Col. Jon Lehr, commander, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. "Increasingly, terrorists are realizing they have no where to turn to. The people of Diyala province will no longer trust them so they resort to murdering innocent people."

IA leadership, along with CF, continue working with local residents as they claim the remains of their family members and neighbors.

"Iraqi and Coalition Forces are determined to keep the city and surrounding areas of Diyala province safe," said Lehr. "We will assist the people so they continue to have faith in their Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi government."

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 1, 2007**

### **Paratrooper awarded Silver Star for actions in Samarra**

#### **Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**PATROL BASE OLSON, Iraq** – An 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper was awarded the nation's fourth highest decoration, the Silver Star, July 31, 2007, at Patrol Base Olson in Samarra, Iraq, for valorous actions during a near ambush February 2, 2007, in Samarra.

Capt. Brennan Goltry, 27, 2nd Platoon leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, joins a coveted list of Silver Star recipients, including Senator John McCain and Audie Murphy. He's the first from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and sixth 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper to receive the Silver Star amidst the global war on terror campaign in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The sun had just set on Goltry and his platoon's mounted patrol in Samarra. He noticed the brightness of the full moon as his convoy turned south on 20th Street, because it gave the enemy an advantage of extra visibility on the U.S. patrol, he said.

The five vehicles progressed south, when they began taking automatic weapons and sniper fire from the south and west.

"It was an 'L-shaped' ambush," said the Bakersfield, Calif., native. "(Insurgents) engaged, we identified every position we could, and returned fire."

The lead vehicle was disabled immediately, so Goltry had his driver pull their vehicle perpendicular and in front of it to provide cover. Goltry spotted a shooter to his right, opened his door, and returned fire. He received two gun shot wounds to his left leg but continued fighting until the shooter was killed.

Goltry took cover and gathered his men; like him, some of them were wounded. It is unknown how many attackers were involved, but Goltry led his men south on foot with suppressive fire and basically ran through the objective until the enemy was constrained. The ability to gain fire superiority allowed for his more seriously wounded Paratroopers to receive medical care.

"I'm real proud of my men," Goltry said. "They fight real hard for me, and they've saved my (rear) more than once."

Goltry's commander and fellow Paratroopers said this was just another day for him. He's described as a tough, no nonsense type of leader, but at the same time, extremely compassionate about his platoon, said Capt. Buddy Ferris, commander, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"Here in Iraq, he's excelled at everything he's done," said Ferris, who has worked with Goltry since October 2005. "I'm happy he's been recognized, but this is the type of stuff he does everyday. It's not the first time he's been shot, and it's not the first time he charged the enemy."

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of 25th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division – North, presented Goltry with the Silver Star as well as two Purple Hearts – one of which was for injuries received during the February 2 attack – and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

### **Soldiers discover 3 murdered women in Doura**

#### **Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO**

**BAGHDAD** – Multi-National Division-Baghdad troops found the bodies of three women murdered by terrorists believed to be associated with Al Qaeda in the Southern part of the capital July 29.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division received information from local nationals stating that gunmen came to a house in Doura where the women were staying, executing three of four people there before fleeing the scene. An elderly woman was spared from the killings.

"This is Al Qaeda at its absolute worst," said Col. Ricky D. Gibbs, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division commander. "This is one more series of brutal murders that completely contradict the terrorists' assertions that they are here to protect the Iraqi people."

The women were allegedly related to several individuals who were detained earlier on suspected anti-coalition activities, but no other leads were available.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

### **Tribal members assist in detention of three al-Qaida leaders**

#### **Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**SHERWEEN, Iraq** – After receiving information of known al-Qaida members in the Sherween area, a village near Muqadiyah, Iraq, Iraqi citizens assisted Iraqi Police in the detention of three key al-Qaida leaders, July 29.

"This is a very significant event for Diyala because it is clear that not only are the security forces targeting al-Qaida, but the people are tired of the hatred and destruction al-Qaida and other terrorist groups have to offer," said Col. David Sutherland, commander of 3-1 Cav. and commander of Coalition Forces in Diyala province.

Suspecting an attack on a near-by village, Diyala tribal members informed the Dali Abbas Iraqi police, and together, set up a tactical checkpoint along the known route.

"It is also vital because it shows the people are gaining more and more confidence in the Iraqi security forces – the true protectors of this nation," Sutherland added. "Al-Qaida truly has no place to hide as the people, not just the security forces, are now determined to work for a safer, more secure Iraq."

As suspected, the leaders were traveling toward Dali Abbas, and when searched, the IP discovered two AK-47s, a laptop computer and documents detailing past and future al-Qaida operations.

Following the detention of the al-Qaida leaders, the IP transferred the detainees to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division.

Despite threats by al-Qaida, the al-Qaida leaders were successfully detained and transported to an IA detention facility for further questioning, demonstrating the steadfastness of the Iraqi Police.

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

#### **MND-B Soldiers find large weapons cache near Falahat**

##### **Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers found a large weapons cache near Falahat, Iraq July 30.

While conducting a dismounted patrol in an area just outside of the village, Soldiers from Troop D, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, uncovered a cache consisting of 155 Russian-made 57mm mortar rounds.

"This is an extremely significant find which will keep weapons out of the hands of Al-Qaeda operatives who would have used them in attacks against innocent Iraqi civilians, Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces," said Lt. Col. Peter Andrysiak, deputy commanding officer of the brigade. "Since establishing a patrol base here, our troopers have found seven caches within the past month."

"Two of those caches were found with the help of local neighborhood watch volunteers who are fed up with sectarian violence and want to keep their community safe for the sake of their families," added Andrysiak. Iraqi Security Forces are currently investigating to find those responsible for storing the mortar rounds.

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

#### **Two Task Force Marne Soldiers hit with indirect fire**

##### **Multi-National Division – Center PAO**

**BAGHDAD** — Two Task Force Marne Soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in an indirect fire attack Tuesday.

The Soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of the next of kin.

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

#### **Black Jack Soldiers respond to car bomb**

##### **Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO**

**BAGHDAD** — A car bomb exploded in the Sheik Junaid neighborhood of Baghdad Aug. 1 killing 50 people. Another 60 were wounded by the explosion at the Al Mansoor fuel station, which caused a massive fire after igniting one of the 7,000 gallon fuel tanks.

Soldiers from the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division responded to the explosion from their nearby joint security station, along with elements of the Iraqi army and Iraqi National Police.

Morris said that Coalition and Iraqi Forces quickly restored order in the area while firefighters began working to put out the blaze.

The incident is still under investigation.

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

#### **Iraqi Security Forces, U.S. Special Forces detain four rogue JAM suspects**

##### **Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO**

**BAGHDAD** – Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Special Forces detained four suspected Shi'a extremists who are believed to be linked to the rogue Jaysh al-Mahdi militia during an intelligence driven in Baghdad July 31.

The suspected Shi'a extremists are allegedly responsible for engaging in death squad killings of innocent civilians in the Baghdad area. The suspects are also allegedly connected to a terrorist network responsible for emplacing improvised explosive devices and participating in criminal activities aimed at undermining legitimate elected officials.

The suspects are currently being detained for questioning.

No Iraqi or U.S. personnel were harmed during the operation.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

**Al-Qaeda emir of Mosul shot, killed by ISF**

**Multi-National Division – North PAO**

**MOSUL, Iraq** – Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division shot and killed three members of the Islamic State of Iraq terrorist organization, including its leader Safi, the touted al-Qaeda in Iraq emir of Mosul, after they were fired upon Aug. 1.

The incident took place during a series of combined operations involving the 2nd Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police throughout the city of Mosul. The 2nd Iraqi Army Division headquarters element, including Brig. Gen. Moutaa, commander of the 2IA, were conducting cordon and search operations in northeast Mosul when Safi and three of his bodyguards were spotted in a pickup truck.

The convoy gave chase and pulled the vehicle over. All four men exited the pickup and began firing at the IA soldiers. Moutaa and his security element returned fire, killing all three.

“This is a great example of the cooperation between the Iraqi police (who provided the profile and made sure his picture was widely distributed and familiar) and the Iraqi army (who actually stopped Safi),” said Col. Stephen Twitty, commander of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “The Iraqi Security Forces are leading the way here in Ninewah Province, unilaterally executing Provincial Governor Kashmoula’s security plan with incredible success.”

“The death of Safi will further disrupt senior AQI leadership in Mosul, which has been unstable since May, due to the combined efforts of Coalition Forces and ISF offensive operations,” said Twitty.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

**High Value Individual detained in Al Anbar Province**

**BALAD, Iraq** – While executing a convoy security mission, Paratroopers from 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 2-504th Parachute Infantry Regiment were decisively involved in the detention of a High Value Individual in Al Anbar Province July 24.

The Paratroopers were informed to “be on the look out” for a specific vehicle. Upon positive identification of the vehicle, the men of Charlie Company quickly transitioned to isolate and secure the HVI. This effort is an example of the adaptability and creativity of the Paratroopers of 2-504th PIR and their ability to remain vigilant and flexible in a complex environment. Moreover, their rapid action and aggressive execution led to the successful capture and transfer of an HVI to a unit in Multi-National Force-West.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2, 2007**

**Soldiers attacked during combat logistics patrol**

**13th SC(E), LSA ANACONDA PAO**

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – A 13th SC(E) Soldier was killed and two others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle while conducting a combat logistics patrol in the vicinity of Al Basrah, Iraq August 1.

The wounded Soldiers were treated by Coalition Forces medical personnel and transported to a nearby medical facility for further evaluation and treatment.

The attack is under investigation. The name of the dead service member is being withheld pending notification of next of kin and release by the Department of Defense.

The names of the wounded Soldiers are being held for privacy.

**MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ**

**PRESS DESK**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq**

**August 2, 2007**

**Two alleged Al-Qaeda emirs, 20 other suspects captured; four terrorists killed**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Coalition Forces captured two alleged al-Qaeda in Iraq emirs, killed four terrorists and detained 20 suspected terrorists during operations targeting al-Qaeda in Iraq media cells and senior leaders Wednesday and Thursday.

Wednesday night, Coalition Forces captured the alleged al-Qaeda in Iraq sniper emir of Mosul. As the assault force entered the two targeted buildings, a man approached the perimeter security element. Even after the ground forces used appropriate escalation of force measures, the man continued to advance on the security element. Coalition Forces, responding appropriately to the hostile threat, engaged the man, killing him.

Inside the targeted buildings, Coalition Forces detained the alleged emir, who was believed to be involved in a plot against the mayor of Mosul on March 9 and has allegedly claimed responsibility for at least one Coalition Forces death in the last month. The suspected terrorist allegedly supervises 10-15 operatives and has conducted kidnapping operations to bring in money for his own use. Ground forces on the scene detained one additional suspect and discovered a small cache containing body armor, weapons, a rifle sight manual and extremist propaganda.

In western Baghdad Thursday morning, Coalition Forces captured an alleged al-Qaeda in Iraq media emir tied to propaganda cells throughout Baghdad. During the raid, the ground forces found a large amount of U.S. currency and improvised explosive device-making materials. Two more individuals were detained for their ties to the suspected emir.

Coalition Forces targeted a media cell and its leader, also suspected of facilitating the movement of foreign terrorists, in a raid near Samarra Thursday morning. As Coalition Forces approached the target building, surveillance showed a man come out of the building and move to a tactical fighting position against the assault force. Responding appropriately to the hostile threat, Coalition Forces called in close air support. The man was killed by aircraft strafing, and was determined to be a foreigner. The ground forces found weapons on site and detained seven suspected terrorists during the operation for their alleged ties to the foreign terrorist network and media cell.

North of Karmah Thursday, Coalition Forces continued to target senior al-Qaeda in Iraq leaders in Anbar province. As the assault force approached the targeted buildings, two terrorists armed with AK-47s drew their weapons on the ground forces, using a woman as a human shield. Coalition Forces closed in on the armed men when one terrorist attempted to assault an element of the ground forces. Coalition Forces moved the woman out of the way and engaged the two armed men, killing them. Four suspected terrorists were detained during the operation.

A raid in Tarmiyah Thursday targeted a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist who has close ties to the al-Qaeda emir of Baghdad. The ground forces detained four suspected terrorists during the operation.

"The leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq should know we are continually targeting them and will not rest until we have captured or killed them," said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, MNF-I spokesperson. "Every removal of a leader of al-Qaeda, at any level, weakens the terrorist organization and strengthens Coalition and Iraqi Security Force operations against it."





# THE GUARDIAN

SERVING MADERA COUNTY VETERANS



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